

Application No.: 10/620,203
Amendment Dated: March 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: December 15, 2004

MTS-3449US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 2 is cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to include the features of originally-filed claim 2. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 13 may be found in originally-filed claim 2. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to depend from claim 1. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the remarks below and the amendments to the claims.

Objection to the Title

The Examiner objected to the title as allegedly not being descriptive. The title has been amended. In view of the amended title, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 2 for an informality. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 2 be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to claims 2 and 6-11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 2 has been cancelled and its features have been added to claims 1 and 13. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to depend from claim 1 which should now be allowable. Claims 8-11 depend from claim 6 and/or claim 7 and therefore should also now be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 2 and 6-11 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,292,065 to Friedman et al. Claims 1 and 13

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have been amended to include the features of claim 2 which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectfully request therefore that the rejection of claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) be withdrawn. Claims 5 and 12 depend (directly and/or indirectly) from claim 1 and, thus, are likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request therefore that the rejection of claims 1, 5, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) be withdrawn.

Priority

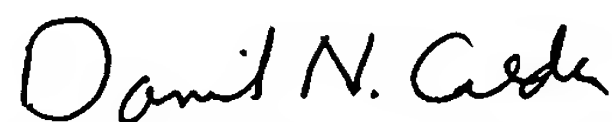
The Office Action Summary dated December 15, 2004 did not include an acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority or an acknowledgement of receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. The claim for foreign priority and a certified copy of the priority document were filed on July 15, 2003. Enclosed are a copy of the claim for foreign priority and the first page of the certified copy of the priority document as copied from the Image File Wrapper for Application No. 10/620,203 available on the USPTO web site. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge receipt of the claim for foreign priority and acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

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In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel N. Calder, Reg. No. 27,424
Christopher J. Dervishian, Reg. No. 42,480
Attorneys for Applicants

Enclosures: Copy of Claim To Right of Priority
Copy of First Page of Priority Document

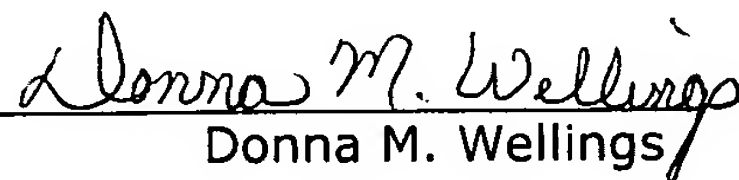
DNC/CJD/fp/dmw

Dated: March 15, 2005

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 15, 2005.


Donna M. Wellings

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